to participate in the setting up, management and operation of Inland Container Depots and Container Freight Stations;

(b) if so, what are the guidelines laid down for their identity, recognition and authorisation;

(c) what are the differentiates between Inland Container Depots and Container Freight Stations, serialwise;

(d) what facilities, Incentives, Coordination including Railway land on Licence/ Lease. Government propose to restore/ provide to private parties to make this venture successful; and

(e) what are the names and details of authoritits empowered for coordination, assistance and recognition ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Broadly, the guidelines stipulate that there should be proper justification in the form of comprehensive survey report for setting up Inland Container Depot (ICD) and Container Freight Station (CFS). The entrepreneur desirous of setting up the facility should have sound financial standing, experience and must create proper infrastructure for an ICD/CFS.

(c) According to the guidelines, an ICD is a place where containers are aggregated for onward movement to or from the ports whereas CFS is a place where containers are packed and unpacked and aggregation/ segregation of Cargo takes place. An ICD may have CFS attached to it.

(d) No special facilities or incentives are proposed to be provided.

(e) An Inter-Ministerial Committee has been constituted in the Ministry of Commerce to provide single window clearance to all proposals for setting up of ICDs/ CFSs. The Committee consists of officials from the Minstries of Commerce, Surface Transport, Railways, Finance (Revenue).

Green Week Organised in Berlin

1704. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of Indian agricultural and horticultural products displayed at the 'Green Week' event organised in Berlin, recently;

(b) what was the response of other participants towards Indian products;

(c) whether there is any invitation for Indian participation in such agricultural fairs in the near future; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b) Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), alongwith a few exporters, had participated in this fair and displayed various items like mango pulp, canned and frozen fruits and vegetables, fresh fruits and vegetables, rice, spices, papads, canned mushroom, cashew, tomato ketch up, banana pulp, etc. These products were generally well received by other participants. However, as no retail sales were made by Indian exporters, consumer response to the products displayed could not be assessed.

(c) and (d) Participation in international trade fairs is a continuous process and a decision is taken in each case on merits and resource availability.

Proposal for Development of Rubber Industry

1705. SHRIMATI MIRA DAS:
SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:
SHRI SOM PAL:
SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are being taken by Government to develop rubber industry in recent times;

(b) whether it is a fact that current rubber cess of £ be Rs. 500 is proposed to £ raised to Rs. 2000 per tonne;

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(d) what is the current market price of natural rubber per tonne in India together with its international price;

(e) what is the total production of natural rubber in India and in other major rubber producing countries; and

(f) whether it is a fact that rubber processing industries are mainly located in SSI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Steps taken to develop rubber industry in recent times are as follows —

(i) Conduct training programmes for entrepreneurs.

(ii) Development of rubber products conforming to national and international standards at the request of various industries.

(iii) Preparation of project reports, project profiles and technical bulletins.

(iv) Preparation of market survey reports.

(v) Testing of rubbers, rubber products and rubber-chemicals as per standards for various industries.

(vi) Development of rubber products for various industries for import substitution.

(vii) Conducting seminars, workshops, etc.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The current rate of the excise duty (cess) on rubber is Re. 0.50 per kg. and has been in effect from 24-8-1984. The cess on natural rubber is the main source of revenue to finance the various developmental activities of the Rubber Board.

As a result of the implementation of the Research and Development Schemes of the Rubber Board, the annual cess collection vis-a-vis the expenditure has been showing an adverse balance ever since 1981-82. The rate of growth of expenditure has also been higher than the growth in cess collection. In order to reduce the deficit and to find additional resources for intensifying the activities of the Rubber Board, the Government has proposed to enhance the ceiling rate of the cess from Re. 0.50 to Rs. 2.00 per kg.

(d) The market price of natural rubber at Kottayam market on 5-5-1992 was as follows :—

RMA-IV Trade Rs. 24.000 per MT

The price of natural rubber in Malaysian Market as on 5-5-1992 was as follows :—

RSS-3 grade—US $ 868.6 per MT

SMR-20 grade—US $ 868.6 per MT

(e) The total production of natural rubber in India and in other major rubber producing countries, estimated by the International Rubber Study Group, London, for the year 1991, is as under :—

Country	('000 tonnes)
Thailand	1339
Indonesia	1301
Malasia	1200
India	360

(f) Most of the rubber processing industries, i.e. those converting crop from rubber plantations into marketable forms like sheet, scrap, crumb, centrifuged latex etc. are SSI units.

Saving as A Result of New Policies

1706. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state what is the estimated amount of expenditure likely to be saved during the current year as a result of the liberalisation of the industrial policy, new trade policy and other measures taken by various organisations like the office of the various organisations like the office of the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports, State Trading Corporation, Minerals and